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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION**

1938 A. A. A. FARM PROGRAM - - - - - NORTHEAST REGION

**SUMMARY OF THE 1938 A. A. A. FARM PROGRAM
NORTHEAST REGION**

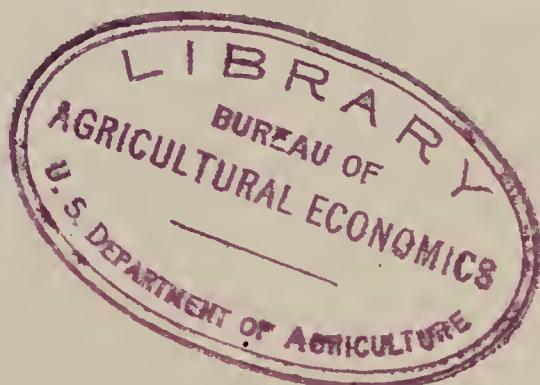
The A. A. A. farm program aims at conserving soil, stabilizing production, and building up reserves of farm products in years of plenty for use in years of shortage. It is based on the cooperation of farmers to bring about fairer incomes for themselves and to assure consumers more stable and adequate supplies.

The foundation of the new A. A. A. farm program as applied to the Northeast Region is essentially the same voluntary agricultural conservation program that has been in operation since 1936. In 1938 farmers can earn payments in two ways: (1) By using approved soil-building practices; and (2) in some cases, by staying within acreage allotments for certain soil-depleting crops. These payments will be the only ones made in connection with any part of the 1938 farm program in the Northeast Region.

Every northeastern farmer who takes part in the 1938 Agricultural Conservation Program will be expected to use soil-building practices. For many farmers this will be all that is required in order to earn the maximum payment. Some farmers will, in addition, be assigned acreage allotments on certain crops. They will earn part of the full payment by staying within those allotments and the rest by using soil-building practices.

Soil-building practices.—This year the national program includes a full list of approved soil-building practices. Each State Agricultural Conservation committee has gone over that list and picked out the ones which will be of real use to farmers there in its State. A separate leaflet (NER-203) gives the State list of approved practices, and the number of credits that each practice will count toward meeting a farm's soil-building goal.

The Soil-Building Goal.—For each farm whose operator is co-operating in the program there will be computed a soil-building goal, which will represent the amount of soil-building practices needed to earn full payment for the farm. The soil-building goal for a farm will be written down as a certain number of units. The values of the soil-building practices listed in the State leaflet also are given in units. A farmer will reach his soil-building goal by using practices that add up to as many units as the number of units



in his soil-building goal. In terms of payment, each unit is worth \$1.50.

Acreage Allotments.—Through county committees, the following kinds of acreage allotments will be established.

Wheat-acreage allotments on farms which usually produce for market 100 bushels of wheat or more.

Potato-acreage allotments on farms which usually grow more than 3 acres of potatoes.

Tobacco-acreage allotments on farms which usually grow tobacco.

General soil-depleting acreage allotments (consisting of the other soil-depleting crops, all taken together) for farms in Aroostook County, Maine, which usually grow more than 3 acres of potatoes, and for all commercial vegetable farms in the Northeast. A commercial vegetable farm is one on which the average acreage of commercial vegetables in 1936 and 1937 was more than one-half the acreage of cropland that was not used for potatoes, tobacco, or orchards. The general soil-depleting crop acreage will include vegetables. There will not be any separate vegetable-acreage allotments.

For farms which have one or more of these acreage allotments, payment based on the number of acres in the farm's allotment will be earned by staying within that allotment. Deductions from total payments will be made for each acre by which a farmer goes over an allotment. The exact rates of payments and of decreases for exceeding allotments are described later in this leaflet.

Total Soil-Depleting Allotment.—On any farm which has a wheat, potato, or tobacco allotment, a total soil-depleting acreage allotment also will be established. It will be the acreage in the farm's special crop allotment or allotments, plus the acreage of other soil-depleting crops usually grown on the farm. The total depleting-acreage allotment will not be a basis of payment. However, reduction in payments will be made for going over the total allotment. If a farm's usual rotation calls for more soil-depleting crops in some years than in others, the total soil-depleting allotment for the farm should make allowance for any such year-to-year change.

HOW PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE

A uniform method is provided for computing the maximum possible payment for each farm. If a farmer uses enough soil-building practices to meet the requirements of his soil-building goal, and does not go over his soil-depleting acreage allotments or his total soil-depleting crop allotment (if either of these last two apply to his farm), he will earn the full payment. If he falls short of his goal for soil-building, or goes over his acreage allotments or his total acreage allotment, his payment will be reduced.

The maximum payment for each farm will depend on the size of the farm and the nature of the farming operations. Items of payment are the following and the maximum payment is the sum of these items:

On farms which do not have any acreage allotments:

CROPLAND.—70 cents for every acre of cropland on the farm except land in orchards.

ORCHARDS.—\$2 for each acre of bearing commercial orchard.

VEGETABLES.—\$1.50 for each acre of the average 1936 and 1937 commercial vegetable acreage.

PASTURE.—40 cents for each acre of fenced noncrop open pasture in excess of half the number of acres of cropland on the farm.

On farms which have either special or general acreage allotments:

CROPLAND.—50 cents an acre on the acreage which remains when acreage in orchards and acreage in special and general depleting acreage allotments are subtracted from the total acreage of cropland on the farm.

ORCHARDS.—\$2 for each acre of bearing commercial orchard.

VEGETABLES.—\$1.50 for each acre of the farm's average 1936 and 1937 commercial vegetable acreage.

PASTURE.—40 cents for each acre of fenced noncrop open pasture in excess of half the number of acres of cropland on the farm.

In addition, the following items will be added for farms to which one or more of the acreage allotments apply:

POTATOES.—3 cents per bushel on the farm's normal yield per acre on the acreage planted, up to the limit of the allotment. (This payment for *planted acreage* instead of flat payment on acreage in the allotment is different from payments for the other crops with special allotments.)

TOBACCO.—1 cent per pound, on the farm's normal yield per acre of cigar-type tobacco for the acreage within the allotment, except that payment will not be made on an acreage more than 125 percent of that raised in 1938.

WHEAT.—12 cents per bushel, on the farm's normal yield per acre, for acreage within the allotment, except that payment will not be made on an acreage more than 125 percent of that planted for harvest in 1938.

GENERAL SOIL-DEPLETING CROPS.—\$1.25, adjusted for the productivity of the farm, on each acre in the general soil-depleting crop allotment, except that payment will not be made on an acreage more than 125 percent of that raised in 1938.

Reductions From the Full Payment.—Payments will be reduced from the maximum at the following rates:

POTATOES.—10 times the per-acre rate of payment on the potato allotment for each acre by which a farmer exceeds his allotment.

TOBACCO.—10 times the per-acre rate of payment on the tobacco allotment for each acre by which a farmer exceeds his allotment.

On any farm with a potato or tobacco allotment, reductions will be made at the potato or tobacco rate for each acre by which a farmer increases his acreage of commercial vegetables above his average 1936 and 1937 vegetable acreage.

GENERAL SOIL-DEPLETING ACREAGE.—On commercial vegetable farms and potato farms in Aroostook county, Maine, for which no wheat acreage allotment is established, 8 times the per-acre rate of payment on the general allotment for each acre by which the farmer exceeds his allotment. (Except for increases in commercial-vegetable acreage on farms with potato allotments, for which the deduction rate already has been described in this section.)

TOTAL SOIL-DEPLETING ACREAGE.—If the farm has a wheat allotment, 8 times the per-acre rate of payment on the wheat allotment for each acre of soil-depleting crops above the total soil-depleting acreage allotment. If the farm has no wheat allotment but has a total soil-depleting acreage allotment, \$6 for each acre of soil-depleting crops above the total soil-depleting acreage allotment. This reduction will not apply on any acreage on which a reduction for exceeding a potato, tobacco, or general depleting acreage allotment has been made.

WHEAT.—In 1938 there will be no special reduction for exceeding the wheat acreage allotment. However, if a farmer exceeds his wheat-acreage allotment, and does not make a corresponding reduction of other soil-depleting crop acreage, he will receive a reduction for going over his total depleting acreage allotment.

SOIL-BUILDING GOAL.—\$1.50 for each unit by which a farmer falls short of reaching his soil-building goal.

If the reduction amounts to more than the full payment figured for a farmer, he will be liable to no penalty of any kind. He simply will not receive any payment.

Larger Payments for Small Farms.—The new farm Act makes special provision for giving a larger share of the payments to family-sized farms. After the amount which a farmer has earned has been figured out according to the regular method, increases will be made in all payments under \$200. The increases will be made in the following way:

<i>Original payment</i>	<i>Amount of increase</i>
\$20 or less-----	40 percent.
\$21 to \$40-----	\$8, plus 20 percent of amount over \$20.
\$41 to \$60-----	\$12, plus 10 percent of amount over \$40.
\$61 to \$186-----	\$14.
\$186 to \$200-----	Enough to increase payment to \$200.

All Farmers Eligible.—Any farm operator, whether owner or share tenant, can cooperate in this program, but the new law does not penalize anyone for not taking part. The program remains voluntary, as it has been for the past 2 years. On a farm operated by a tenant both owner and tenant can take part and divide the payments they earn.